



League of Women Voters
of Brown County

Natural Resource: Watershed Position

A watershed is an area of land that collects and drains water from high points (hills) to low points (valleys). When rain falls in a watershed, the water travels over natural and manmade terrain features toward the lowest point. Any area that drains water to one location is a watershed.

Brown County residents get drinking water from springs, creeks, ponds, dug wells, drilled wells, ground water well fields, aquifers, and surface water from Lake Monroe Reservoir. These resources are charged by watersheds, of which, five touch or cross into Brown County: Upper and Lower White River, Driftwood, and Upper and Lower East Fork White River. All are part of a much larger, Wabash River, watershed which covers over eighty percent of our state.

Position:

1. The League of Women Voters of Brown County supports preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the *watershed* ecosystem with the maximum protection of the public health and environment.
2. The League of Women Voters of Brown County supports resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning for the Lake Monroe Watershed, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Background:

1977: Water Quality, Helmsburg Sewage, and Flood Plain

1979: Support for Soil and Water Dist, Hoosier National Forest

1981: Lake Monroe Water Study

1988: National Water Study

1989: State Study on Environment, Solid Waste Management with effects on air and water. Local water, Agricultural runoff, pesticides, wells and septic.

1996: Wetlands Protection Study

1997: Drinking water protection

1992: Wetland and water study in Hamilton Creek area.

1993: Solid Waste Management plan

1998: Source water, surface, ground and wellhead protection.

1999: Continue source water. Wetlands.

2000: Whiter River fish kill, work for Legislative action for stronger pollution laws.



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2004: Hoosier Environmental Council study on Bean Blossom Creek watershed begins.

2005: Yellowwood Watershed meetings begin.