



# LAND TO LAKE

magazine

issue 13 autumn 2020

## Thoreau wildlife reserve

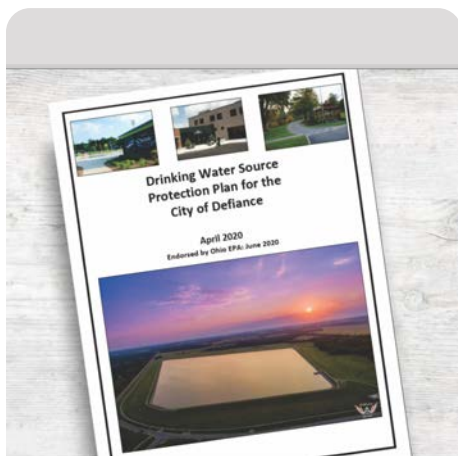
Friends of Cedar Creek

Conservation Kick

conservation & preservation  
in our neck of the woods



# MAUMEE RIVER WATERSHED conservation NEWS



**Designed  
with the goal  
of improving  
the Maumee  
River baseline  
water quality.**

## Source Water Protection Plan

The City of Defiance Source Water Protection Plan has been officially endorsed by the Ohio EPA.

The plan is designed with the goal of improving the Maumee River baseline water quality.

Protection planning can prevent future contamination events, minimize a potential threat, or simply prepare the community for when something does happen to the water supply. The source water protection plan can also be used when evaluating potential development opportunities that may affect drinking water supplies in the future.

The full plan, along with a collection of source water resource material, is available to the public on the City's Water Treatment page:

[cityofdefiance.com/divisions/water-treatment](http://cityofdefiance.com/divisions/water-treatment)



## Tree Planting

Marie Hanel and Cindy Lantz gathered with Josh Mast and Mark Newman, *City of Defiance Shade Tree Commission* members, to observe a tree planting at Diehl Park October 8.

The Morton Elm tree was purchased through the City's Tree of Life program in memory of Steven Hanel.

For more information on the Tree of Life program or the Shade Tree Commission, please go to:

[cityofdefiance.com/divisions/parks-recreation](http://cityofdefiance.com/divisions/parks-recreation)



Published to provide the community with information on protecting the water resources of the Maumee River Watershed throughout Defiance County.

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## Share Your News With Us!

Land to Lake supports water-quality and conservation-related groups in the region. Please submit information to:

[jenglish@cityofdefiance.com](mailto:jenglish@cityofdefiance.com)



**COVER PHOTO:** Auggie Diehl and Emma Diehl observe the Autumn colors at the south end of Willow Lake, in Thoreau Wildlife Reserve. ©2020LandtoLake



# FRIENDS OF Cedar Creek

The Cedar Creek Wildlife Project was created in 1965 to protect the stream in its natural state. Members consist mainly of property owners in the Cedar Creek watershed.

In 1968 the Maumee River and its Indiana tributaries were named to be studied for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. The Cedar Creek failed designation in the national program because its naturalized portion was short of the 25 miles needed.

In 1973, the State of Indiana enacted the Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, and in 1974,

the General Assembly, by resolution, asked for study of Cedar Creek for designation into the protected rivers system. The Indiana Natural Resources Commission in 1976 established 13.7 miles of the Cedar Creek, from County Road 68 in DeKalb County to the confluence with the St. Joe River in Allen County, to be designated under the Act, with an overwhelming body of public opinion in favor.

Since then the organization, now known as Friends of Cedar Creek, has participated directly in creating public policy to fulfill our preservation mission, including:

- Designation of the entire stream in Allen County and a mile into DeKalb County as a scenic river under the Indiana Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act.
- Supporting the dedication of a number of private and public properties along the stream under the Indiana Nature Preserves Act.



- Encouraging the conveyance of protective and restrictive easements, as well as outright land gifts contributing to the preservation goal.
- Consistently opposing all public and private actions incompatible with protecting the natural features of Cedar Creek and its associated ecosystem.



For more information, please visit [www.friendsofcedarcreek.org](http://www.friendsofcedarcreek.org) or follow us on Facebook [@FriendsOfCedarCreek](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfCedarCreek)





# Thoreau wildlife reserve

## conservation & preservation in our neck of the woods



*Peter Diehl shows his grandchildren pheasants to be released on the reserve. The diverse habitat at the Thoreau Wildlife Reserve provides habitat for many species of wildlife.*

The mission of the Thoreau Wildlife Reserve is to promote the healing of the land through observation, research and experiential learning related to human impacts, and bridging the divide between necessary human use and ecological sustainability. This organization will provide opportunities for concerned citizens to observe, appreciate, understand, and restore nature, and in turn, learn essential truths about their place in the natural world while collaborating to heal the lands and waters of our community.

Thoreau Wildlife Reserve is working with the Audubon Sanctuary Program to encourage the presence of blue birds, mallards, wood ducks, and other native species on the property.

Thoreau Wildlife Reserve is now open to the public for the enjoyment of nature with its 4 nature trails that highlight meadows, woodlands, wetlands and old growth forest.

To safeguard the reserve's natural resources all visitors are asked to abide by the "Leave No Trace" rules of conduct.







*In the gardens at the entrance of the reserve, milkweed and native wildflowers provide habitat for pollinators.*

Visitors must stay on designated trails and only foot traffic is permitted in the reserve. Dogs are permitted but always on a leash.

All visitors must respect social distancing. Numerous signs can be found along the trails with reference to the thoughts of H.D. Thoreau who inspired the Reserve.

## Upcoming Programs

These guided nature walks are geared towards ages 5-10, but all ages are welcome!

*Please register as group size is limited.*

- Saturday, December 5 from 1-2 pm.  
**Animal Tracks at Walden Pond**
- Saturday, January 23 from 1-2 pm.  
**Explore the Pine Forest**
- Saturday, February 27 from 8-9 pm.  
**Full Moon Night Hike**
- Date TBA!

**Photography Class** by local photographer Lindsay Gonzales

The reserve is located at 10485 Haller Road in Brunersberg - next to Noble school and covers approx. 250 acres with 2 miles of trails.

Parking is limited and hours of operation are from dawn to dusk.

To register for programs, or for more information, please visit [www.thoreauwildlifereserve.org](http://www.thoreauwildlifereserve.org)

## Diehl family Legacy

William A. Diehl, Philanthropist and Community Leader, has been inducted into the 2020 class of the Defiance City Hall of Fame.

Diehl served as president of Defiance Milk Products/Diehl Inc. for 40 years and was involved with the Diehl family business for 75 years.

Diehl's philanthropy led to the creation of the Thoreau Wildlife Reserve and Glenn Park an assisted living complex. He served as a trustee at the Defiance College and on numerous local and state boards, foundations, and institutes.





# Leave the Leaves

## Letting your garden go natural can reap big benefits

The temptation to clean up leaves, spent flowers, and garden debris in the fall is great, but keep in mind there are many rewards to “letting your garden go”! The leaf litter, woody stems and other natural materials found in your landscaping and garden during the fall months can provide habitat for a variety of beneficial insects and pollinators.



When you are raking up those leaves, keep an eye out for frogs, turtles, and other critters that rely on fallen leaves for cover and hibernation. Carefully relocate them to a safe leafy area when possible.

## Natural Mulch and Fertilizer

Your fall garden and landscaping debris serves many functions, one of which is to act as a natural mulch, keeping precious soil in place by preventing erosion, during the winter months. The organic matter found in natural materials, such as leaf litter, will slowly break down over the dormant season, serving as a natural fertilizer for anything that comes up in the spring.



## Shelter for Wildlife

Praying mantid cases are often found in the fall on woody stems. They overwinter in a protected location to emerge in the spring and help control the population of insects in your garden.

## Small Actions With Big Impact

For more ideas and simple ways you can help sustain our natural surroundings and improve local water quality Visit:

[landtolake.com/make-a-difference](http://landtolake.com/make-a-difference)



This newly-emerged polyphemus was discovered during spring raking in a Defiance garden last year—a testament to the value of leaving the leaves *until AFTER* the lilacs bloom!

## For leaves that must be raked & removed

Please rake your leaves to the curb—not into the street. See the City of Defiance Leaf pick-up schedule here: [cityofdefiance.com/leaf-pick-up-schedule/](http://cityofdefiance.com/leaf-pick-up-schedule/)



City crews will be utilizing a new leaf pick-up truck this year as part of on-going efforts to improve leaf pick-up service.

# Conservation Kick

**What if drinking water utilities could work with upstream producers to install conservation practices that reduce nutrient loss and protect source water?**

The Great Lakes Commission launched *Conservation Kick* in 2020 to create a water quality marketplace for the Great Lakes Basin. Building on the pioneering vision of the Great Lakes Basin Compact to efficiently and responsibly develop, use and conserve the water resources of the Basin, *Conservation Kick* aims to keep soil and nutrients out of the Great Lakes and protect drinking water by allowing utilities, industries and businesses, nonprofit organizations and concerned citizens to invest in water quality credits.

Over the past decade the Great Lakes Commission has designed and led watershed-scale water quality trading efforts in Wisconsin's Fox River Basin and the Western Lake Erie Basin. *Conservation Kick* takes lessons learned from these efforts to catalyze water quality trading across the Great Lakes Basin. *Conservation Kick* will expand the universe of credit buyers and reduce the transaction costs that often present a barrier to entry in traditional water quality trading markets.

By connecting drinking water utilities with agricultural producers, *Conservation Kick* transactions will result in improvements to community health, local economies, and the environment.



## DRINKING WATER UTILITIES

Fund conservation practices that reduce nutrient and sediment loss

Improve source water quality

Reduce costs associated with drinking water treatment



## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Install targeted conservation practices with funding from drinking water providers

Improve soil health for a more sustainable and economical farm



## ECOSYSTEMS

Improve water quality

Provide habitat for wildlife, including pollinators

Capture and store carbon



*Conservation Kick* is supported by Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.





Discover

THE NATURAL BEAUTY  
DEFIANCE

Auglaize River near the confluence by LG Images



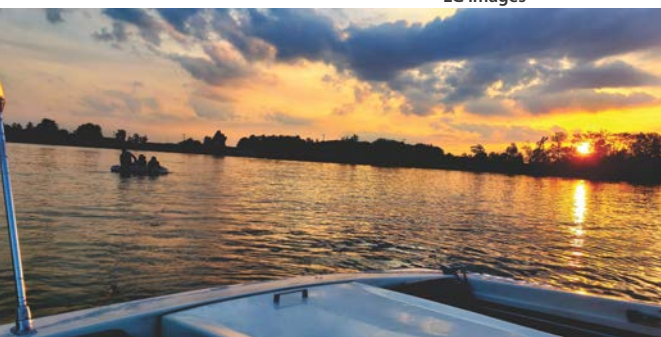
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Ginny Sterling



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Mary Comden



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[VisitDefianceOhio.com](http://VisitDefianceOhio.com)



Special thanks to LG Images and everyone who submitted photos to our RiverFest 2020 "explore your watershed" contest!