

Monitoring Station for South Fork Salt Creek

A Water Fund Demonstration Project

To demonstrate how a water fund can enable investment in the Lake Monroe watershed to protect and improve water quality, several partners in the community agreed to invest in a demonstration project:

A stream gage was placed at Kurtz, Indiana in the South Fork of Salt Creek to measure stream flows from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

This was accomplished through a true team effort:

- Jane Martin procured a commitment of funding from the City of Bloomington and Monroe County Stormwater for a gaging station on the South Fork.
- Friends of Lake Monroe worked with the US Geological Survey (USGS) to define the project parameters, identify costs for installing the gage, and secure matching from USGS.
- The Nature Conservancy and Friends of Lake Monroe worked with the City of Bloomington and Monroe County Stormwater to finalize the contracts between their organization and USGS; this local government funding enabled the federal USGS match.
- The US Geological Survey (USGS) installed, operates, and maintains the stream gage at Kurtz, providing real-time data access on their [website](#), and takes additional measurements at Maumee.
- Representatives of Friends of Lake Monroe, the Hoosier National Forest, and USGS conducted a site visit to select the best location for the stream gage.
- The City of Bloomington Utilities and Monroe County Stormwater invested \$15,500 and \$18,500, respectively, in the installation of the USGS stream gage.
- These two contributions from local governments enabled a federal match from USGS that is valued at \$14,000.
- The Nature Conservancy helped to define the contracts needed with the multiple investors in the project and worked to clarify roles and responsibilities for the project participants while meeting the funders' needs.
- During the period of operation of the streamflow gage, CBU is conducting water quality sampling at Kurtz during periods of high flow.
- The Conservation Law Center, via a grant from Duke Energy, provided funding for the water quality samples collected by the City of Bloomington Utilities to be analyzed at the Indiana University O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs laboratory.

The flow and water quality monitoring is supplemental to the sampling that Friends of Lake Monroe is conducting to develop the Lake Monroe Watershed Plan. The Kurtz monitoring data will be incorporated into the analysis that will lead to the development of the Watershed Plan.

The Lake Monroe Water Fund initiative brought the parties and funding together to invest in this gage for the betterment of the watershed. In the future, the Lake Monroe Water Fund will make more investments like the water monitoring station on the South Fork of Salt Creek that will help protect the watershed landscape and the water quality.