

NATURAL

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The fund will provide snacks, water and a lunch platter for before or after shifts, the website said. Volunteers will also receive a free reusable water bottle and T-shirt courtesy of Duke Energy.

The Healthy Woodlands for Clean Drinking Water effort is also serving as a pilot project. Cohen said the fund plans to use what they learn from it to secure funding and investments in similar projects down the line.

"We envision helping property owners implement a number of solutions in the future, like wetland restoration, trail stabilization, or planting native vegetation as buffers beside streams," she said.

A crucial effort

According to Cohen, the trees and shrubs that were chosen for planting carefully and intentionally.

Once the willows are rooted, she said, they will help hold the soil and reduce erosion, and native trees and shrubs do a better job of slowing down and soaking up storm water before it reaches the creek than the current shallow-rooted vegetation.

Cohen said a district conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture provided technical expertise about the appropriate type of plants to install.

"For establishing vegetation to hold the soil on eroded streambanks, they recommended cuttings of a type of willow (the 'StreamCo' variety of Salix purpurea)," she said.

Cohen explained that planting the cuttings is as simple as sticking them in bare areas of soil, ensuring that half of the length of the cutting is in the ground. This process, she said, is sometimes called "live staking."

Particular species of trees and shrubs were selected in consultation with the supplier and with Wagner Forestry. In addition to the water quality benefits, the native plants will provide habitat and food for pollinators and other animals, Cohen said.

For example, the fund, with the help this weekend's volunteers, will plant pagoda dogwood, which has flowers that attract butterflies and berries that feed many species of birds.

Growing conditions and site



From left, Jane Martin, Pat Martin and Josh Wagner plant stakes April 2.

parameters also influenced plant selection, Cohen said. For example, more shrubs and shorter trees were selected rather than tall trees to avoid any interference with overhead power lines.

Cohen explained that the project is vital to the future health of Lake Monroe, which she said has an "outsized role" in the regional community.

The body of water serves as the sole drinking water source for 150,000 customers, supports businesses that generate nearly \$6.4 billion in gross domestic product, supports all kinds of recreation and provides critical wildlife habitat, she said.

"Reducing sediment — as we aim to do with this project — is crucial to maximize the lake's

lifespan and usability," she said. Cohen added that an estimated 35,000 tons of sediment ends up flowing into the lake annually, and settles before it has a chance to exit.

"So the more we can prevent sediment from flowing into the lake, the better," she said.

According to Cohen, sediment can not only slowly decrease the capacity of reservoirs like Lake Monroe, but it also degrades water quality in a number of ways: by carrying "nutrients" that can feed blue-green algae which in turn release toxins that can make people coming in contact with the water sick; by increasing taste and odor problems, leading to higher costs to treat drinking water; by clouding

water, keeping animals from seeing food, and aquatic plants from growing; and by destroying habitats and causing declines in fish populations.

"Added benefits to this project include improvement to wildlife/pollinator habitat, increased carbon storage, and educational opportunities for hundreds of camp guests annually," she said.

The location that was chosen for the planting was also carefully considered by the fund. The work is being completed on the property of Catholic Youth Organization Camp Rancho Framasa, a local youth camp that has been operating on 297 acres since 1946.

The camp is open and offers programming year-round, but according to co-director Kevin Sullivan, the summer camp is their "main gig," welcoming between 1,200 and 1,500 kids every summer.

About 5,000 people visit CYO through the other nine months, he said.

The camp offers school programs mainly focused on things like outdoor education, teambuilding and leadership development.

Sullivan said one of the camp's core values is stewardship of the earth. That value can be found in action in many of the camp's conservation efforts, including the installment of owl boxes and bat houses on the property, as well as their 30-year agreement with The Nature Conservancy, called the Forest Bank.

Over the course of the Forest Bank's 30-year life span, the conservancy will help the camp manage invasive species and audit their trees, Sullivan said.

One of the LMWF board members is a forestry professional and knew of several properties within the watershed that might need help with erosion control.

Cohen said that CYO was one of the locations suggested, and camp staff wound up being "very receptive" to the project and were able to accommodate the time frame.

"The camp already had some wildlife initiatives ... so this project was a natural fit, and it has been a delight to work with them," she said.

"It's important to us as an education piece, but it's also important as, you know, that's one of our core values," Sullivan said about the project taking place on the camp's property.

According to Cohen, "It's a perfect way to spend Earth Day!"

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Phase two of the Healthy Woodlands for Clean Drinking Water project will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22 at CYO Camp Rancho Framasa, 2230 Clay Lick Road.

Volunteers can sign up for morning, afternoon or all-day slots at www.lakemonroewaterfund.org/get-involved/.

SEPTIC WASTE

In addition to the sediment reduction project, the Lake Monroe Water Fund is also working to prevent septic waste from making its way into streams upstream of Lake Monroe.

They have partnered with the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District to offer \$200 reimbursements to 50 Brown County households within the Lake Monroe Watershed for proper maintenance of their septic system, according to Cohen.

To qualify and receive up to \$200 reimbursement (while funding lasts), Cohen said you must: own a Brown County residence in the Lake Monroe Watershed; receive and pay for septic system inspection, pumping, and/or riser installation done by a Brown County Health Department certified, licensed contractor; and bring your paid receipt to the Brown County Soil & Water Office at 802 Memorial Drive in Nashville to receive your reimbursement.

Questions can be directed towards the fund's program partner, the Brown County Soil & Water Conservation District, at 812-988-2211 or brown@iaswcd.org.

PET TAILS

HEARTWARMING STORIES 🐾 PETS OF THE WEEK 🐾 ASK S.P.O.T. 🐾 HUMANE SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

BROWN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
 128 State Road 135 South, Nashville
 Hours: Noon to 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays
 988-7362 | bchumane.org | facebook.com/bchumane

Favorite dog party returns next month

Brown County Humane Society's annual Dawg Gone Walk and Fiesta will take place Sunday, May 21 from noon to 2:30 p.m. at Deer Run Park in Nashville. This event is a guaranteed great time for you as well as your dogs who will go home tired after a busy afternoon!

The event kicks off with a ceremonial walk around beautiful Deer Run Park. People and dogs alike can enjoy the scenery before heading back to the event area for an afternoon of fun.

Dogs will be invited to participate in any of our 23 contests, which are free to join. Some contests allow dogs to show off their skills while others just let them enjoy lots of attention while simply being them.

Categories include contests like cutest smile, best bark, biggest dog, littlest dog, best dog trick and the ever-popular best costume contest. Dogs will also be able to run free and make new friends in the designated off-leash area!

Bobbing for Hot Dogs, Fastest Fetch, Sneaker Sniffer and Doggie Dash are just some of the games dogs can compete in with the winner receiving a ribbon at the end. Each game requires one ticket to participate (\$1 per ticket) and tickets will be available for purchase with cash or credit card. Back by popular demand, we will have wristbands for purchase that allow dogs unlimited game play.

The event will conclude with our exciting ball drop ending!

Participants will be able to purchase tennis balls for \$5 each. At the end of the event, the balls will be dropped from a fire truck into the contest area and a shelter dog will retrieve the winning ball. If your ball is the winner, you will receive half of the proceeds from the ball sales, which could be as large as a \$625 cash prize!

This is a day of fun for both dogs and their people and you won't want to miss it! Visit www.bchumane.org/dawg-gone-walk-fiesta today to learn more and register for this year's Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta.

Don't wait too long to register, only the first 125 dogs registered will receive one of exciting goody bags filled with treats and surprises for humans and dogs alike!

Brown County Humane Society's

Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta

Event Details:
Sunday, May 21st
Noon to 2:30pm
Deer Run Park
Nashville, IN
\$20 per dog

<https://www.bchumane.org/dawg-gone-walk-fiesta/>

FEATURED PET

ZOOMER, 4 YEARS OLD, 75 POUNDS
 LEARN MORE AT WWW.BCHUMANE.ORG/

The Brown County Humane Society
 128 S. State Road 135, Nashville, Indiana 47448 | (812)988-7362

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