

STUDENTS FROM YMS BIOLOGY  
PRESENT

# PROTECTING THE WHITE RIVER

INFORMATION ABOUT THE WHITE RIVER  
AND HOW YOU CAN PROTECT IT

## BEGINNINGS

1916



The Indianapolis Star once described the White River as "so filthy in summer time that people along the river could hardly remain in their homes, the stock would not drink the water, and fish died in great numbers." The problems eventually got to the point where Morgan and Johnson counties sued the state.

## BUSINESSES BOOM

EARLY- TO MID- 1900S

As more and more businesses began to thrive along the White River, more and more modern buildings were being constructed. A law was put in place to discharge wastewater *directly* into the river. Later, the Clean Water Act of 1977 was put in place, but the river was still heavily polluted. Two decades later, the White River would be considered as one of the most threatened rivers in the country.



## ROCK BOTTOM

1999



The infamous Guide Corp. spill in 1999 resulted in at least a partial fish kill for 57 miles downstream from Anderson. The "spill" was composed of heavily contaminated wastewater that was untreated before making its way to the river.

## IMPROVEMENTS

1999 - PRESENT

After the chemical spill, many people in several communities wanted to help protect the White River. According to an Indy Star article written in Sept, 2019, "[...] the Dig Indy project by Citizens Energy Group is now expected to divert 97% of the sewage overflows to a wastewater treatment plant by 2025."



## STAND UP AND GET INVOLVED

VOICE OUT YOUR CONCERNS



There are many ways that we can help the White River. One of these ways is donating to an organization, such as the Dig Indy project, created by Citizens Energy Group. A helpful alternative would be picking up any trash that you may see next to the river.

## SOURCES

- Indy Star
- Friends of the White River
- Muncie Sanitary District
- WFYI
- National Ocean Service

