



National Wildlife Federation®  
**CAMPUS**  
ecology®

**Ball State University  
Muncie, Indiana  
Spring 2008, Water**

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Campus Profile**

Ball State University, situated on 940 acres in Muncie, Indiana, serves approximately 19,000 students (45 percent male, 55 percent female). Seven academic colleges offer 120 undergraduate programs, 80 masters programs and 20 doctoral programs in 46 departments and schools. Some 750 faculty, 550 professional staff and 1,500 support personnel comprise the employee base.

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## **GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Goals**

Install stormwater medallions and develop a web-based and print-media educational package for use campus-wide.

### **Accomplishments**

Through the leadership of two Honors College students, and with the support of the Council on the Environment, students prepared educational materials for distribution to the university community outlining the importance of stormwater management for the university acreage within the east central Indiana White River watershed. The students prepared tri-fold brochures for distribution to incoming students this next academic year and worked with facilities personnel to begin identifying stormwater inlets for placement of a four-inch disk medallion indicating that the stormwater drain feeds directly into the surface drainage of the east central Indiana watershed.

### **Challenges and Responses**

Networking efforts by the students, facilities planning and management personnel and the university administration required an extended amount of time. Aligning schedules of students and facilities personnel to enable installation of storm medallions and meeting the goal of completing preparation of materials for publication prior to the close of the spring semester were fraught with frustration. Nonetheless, students did complete the work as planned, and the materials will be made available at the start of the new academic year.

## **ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT**

### **Leaders and Supporters**

Mike Planton of Facilities Planning and Management was the primary person involved with the stormwater mapping and medallion installation. Professor Robert J. Koester served as academic advisor for the students. Dr. Yarka Popovicova provided inspiration and support in the execution of this special project and in the stormwater management class that she taught and which served as a preamble to this effort.

### **Funding and Resources**

Under state regulation, the university must promulgate an environmental management system that includes stormwater assessment management. The Office of Facilities Planning and Management absorbed the costs of the medallions, and the Center for Energy Research/Education/Service absorbed the cost of materials production and brochure printing.

### **Community Outreach and Education**

Once the content is placed on the web and the tri-fold flyers have been distributed, the impact on the broader east central Indiana community should be substantial. We intend to leverage this effort over the next several years under the leadership of the Council on the Environment.

### **Campus Climate Action: Your School's Carbon Footprint**

Stormwater management does not have an immediate direct impact on our carbon load, but because of the nature of the whole-systems patterning of stormwater location and watershed mapping, this project provides a useful model for replication in other areas as we continue to build our analysis of the university's resource throughput and resulting carbon load on the atmosphere.

### **National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology® Program**

We continue to rely on the NWF Campus Ecology Program resources, as well as materials produced by other universities that we acquired through the Campus Ecology network.

## **CLOSING COMMENT**

The primary concern throughout this project was time management and meeting of deadlines for completion of work. Students were very effective at scheduling meetings and engaging discussions with all the key players from the university President, to the facilities management staff, to the leadership of the Council on the Environment. The project will integrate well with the Freshman Connections program scheduled for the fall semester in which students will be reading *Notes from a Catastrophe* by Elizabeth Kolbert. We anticipate a continuing positive impact from this effort.