

## **LaGrange County Voluntary Water Quality Monitoring Program**

The LaGrange County Voluntary Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP) officially got underway in May of 2024 after working out some initial kinks in 2023. This program is designed to guide lake associations in performing a seasonal water quality monitoring program in accordance with best practices in aquatic ecology.

Dallas Lake was one of several lakes participating by collecting monthly water samples followed by lab analysis and shared reporting throughout the summer and into early fall of 2024. Lab analysis measures the amount of dissolved oxygen, e.Coli, Nitrogen, total phosphates and suspended solids to determine whether the results fall within acceptable levels. We're happy to report that Dallas Lake's results were well within the acceptable levels!

So why and what are the benefits of a formal, consistent and long-term water quality monitoring program?

1. To establish a baseline of information that can be used to identify trends over time.
2. To identify NEW issues that can arise with water quality, such as high bacterial or nutrient levels, and be able to provide defensible data to our county and state officials to get them engaged in further analysis, source identification and resolution.
3. To help develop a long-term water quality and watershed improvement plan to use to apply for grant funding to do land and shoreline improvements, as well as other projects to realize the plan's objectives
4. Participation with other lakes associations using shared measures and methods helps the ENTIRE lakes community in Northeast Indiana, not just Dallas Lake.

Money from Dallas Lake's Water Quality Fund is used to cover the cost of materials and lab analysis needed to participate in this program. So your financial support is needed to continue this program and other future water quality efforts. We thank you for your past and continued support!

Lastly, a big thanks to Maggie Pechin for her voluntary work on heading up the team who collects samples, deliver the samples for lab analysis and represents Dallas Lake at the LaGrange County Voluntary Water Quality Monitoring Program meetings.