



March 31, 2009

Signs designed to protect Eagle Creek watershed

By Gretchen Becker

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Street signs picturing wildlife and a glass of drinking water are bringing awareness to Indianapolis area residents about how their actions can affect the water that comes out of their faucets.

The Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance is working with county, city, town and parks officials in Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks and Marion counties as well as Zionsville, Zionsville Parks, Westfield, Indianapolis and Eagle Creek Park to install more than 40 signs near bodies of water that feed into Eagle Creek Reservoir.

"People don't understand the connection between land management and what we do to our land," said Angie Tilton, alliance education committee member. "The first step is to make a connection to this tributary and drinking water. Drinking water is a concern for individuals."

The signs all depict a picture a glass of water and a wildlife silhouette so people see that their actions, such as using fertilizers with phosphates or leaving pet waste on the ground, can affect their water and environment, Tilton said.

Veolia Water uses the Northwestside reservoir to provide water for 75,000 people, about 7.5 percent of the water it distributes, said Paul Whitmore, Veolia spokesman.

"We should care because every little bit that people do impacts water quality at some point," Whitmore said. "Ultimately all of that ends up in your water supply."

For more information visit www.eaglecreekwatershed.org.

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