

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory 19 Segments for the State of Indiana

Reference Source: <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/nri/> Note: Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs) Definitions at List Bottom

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River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Big Blue River	Johnson, Shelby, Rush	Edinburgh to Shelbyville (21 river miles); Shelbyville to Freeport Dam (21 river miles); Freeport Dam to Carthage (13 river miles)	55	1982		R, F, W	See Big Blue River Comments	

Big Blue River Comments: A central Indiana River located near the Indianapolis SMSA. Flows through area predominantly in agriculture. Has good recreation potential with heavy existing fishing and floating use. Recommended by the state for study for State Natural Scenic and Recreation Rivers System. The river banks and adjacent lands are ideal for wildlife. Known habitat of Indiana bat. Popular hunting area.

Big Pine Creek	Warren	From S.R. 55 crossing near mouth to Pine Village (20 miles) considered with Mud Pine Creek to Benton-Warren County Line (10 miles)	30	1982		S, R, G	See Big Pine Creek Comments	
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Big Pine Creek Comments: Winds through an area of interesting glacial geology activity with deeply cut channels in sandstone creating steep cliffs. Several species of plants on state rare and endangered species list, relict stands of white pine and hemlock and remnant prairie. Abundant fish and wildlife populations. Good recreational values. Under study by the state for possible inclusion in State Natural, Scenic and Recreational River System.

Big Walnut Creek	Putnam, Hendricks	From Rte. 43 (U.S. 231) above Green Castle in Putnam County to Rte. 236 Hendricks County	26	1982		S, R, G	See Big Walnut Creek Comments	
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Big Walnut Creek Comments: Passes through a glaciated landscape with scenery varying from dense forests to open pastures. Passes through Big Walnut Canyon National Natural Landmark. Relict stands of hemlock and some of the nations largest hardwood are located nearby. Exceptional hunting, fishing and other recreational activities. Recommended by the State for inclusion in State Natural, Scenic and Recreation Rivers System.

Blue Creek	Crawford, Harrison	Confluence with Ohio River to the Washington County line	42	1982		S, R	See Blue Creek Comments	
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Blue Creek Comments: A highly scenic stretch of river through the spectacular Indiana hill country with good floating and fishing potential. Receives moderate use. Flows through Wyandotte State Recreation Area and Harrison Crawford State Forest. Watershed is mostly forested with some bottomland farming. A designated component of State Natural, Scenic and Recreation Rivers System.

Laughery Creek	Dearborn, Ohio, Ripley	From confluence with Ohio River to the source, just east of Morris in Ripley County (entire river)	79	1982		S, R	See Laughery Creek Comments	
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Laughery Creek Comments: Flows through scenic southeastern Indiana hill country and Versailles State Park. Offers good fishing and floating opportunity. The corridor and watershed are generally wooded with some bottomland farming. Recommended by the state for study for inclusion in State Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Little Blue River	Crawford	From confluence with Ohio River to R.M. 27 at bridge crossing SW of village of English	27	1982		S, R	See Little Blue River Comments1	

Little Blue River Comments1: High gradient, spring fed stream flowing over sand, gravel and rubble. Many aquatic habitats, great diversity of flora and fauna. Flows through Hoosier National Forest. Recommended by the state for inclusion in State Natural, Scenic and Recreation Rivers System.

Little Blue River	Crawford	From intersection of the flood pool (from Cannelton Navigation Dam on the Ohio River) with the river bottom at mile 7.65 up the river from its outlet on the Ohio to river channel terminus at the town of English, Indiana	28	1982/ 1993	S, R	S, R, G, O	See Little Blue River Comments2	
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Little Blue River Comments1: Meanders through wooded, rolling hills occasionally adjacent to rock bluffs. The river banks are tree lined, although small fields can be seen along the valley through the trees. River banks are mostly mud and may extend as much as 8 feet above the stream. Logs across the river and shallows at low water levels preserve the natural atmosphere and provide a challenging experience.

Lost River	Martin, Orange	From rivers mouth at the East Fork of the White River to the junction of the North and South Forks of the Lost River 78.5 miles upstream	78	1993	S, R	G, H, O	See Lost River Comments	
<p><u>Lost River Comments:</u> The river is an internationally known example of karst topography . Water enters the system through literally thousands of sinkholes. In addition, the surface river loses water into a system of swallow holes draining portions of the surface river. About 22 miles is then dry except during periods of flooding. With the exception of the dry bed portion, the entire river is canoeable. Frequent log jams and slow meandering flow make for a challenging experience.</p>								
Muscatatuck River	Jackson, Washington , Scott, Jefferson	From confluence with Vernon River (12d boundary) approximately 5 miles west of Millport to confluence with Graham Cr. and Big Creek	21	1982		S, R, F, W	See Muscatatuck River Comments	
Muscatatuck River	Jackson	From mouth (confluence) with East Fork White River to confluence with Vernon River (12d boundary) approximately 5 miles west of Millport	20	1982		S, R, F, W	See Muscatatuck River Comments	

Muscatatuck River Comments: Meanders through a scenic, heavily wooded corridor in southern Indiana hill country. Agricultural lands often lie adjacent to the river providing excellent wildlife habitat. Considered to be a good fishing stream and offers a highly scenic floating experience. Recommended for study for State Rivers System.

Plum Creek	Lake	Goodenow to Dyer, IN	15	1982		R	See Plum Creek, IL Comments.	IL
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Plum Creek, IL Comments: Flows east through northern Illinois farm country into Indiana. A small stream used for fishing and floating, but is somewhat limited due to size. Some archeological and historic value.

St. Joseph River	St. Joseph, Elkhart	From the MI/IN boundary to the I-80/90 and HWY 31/33 Interchange (3 river miles); from the City of South Bend eastern limit to the MI/IND boundary in Elkhart County (30 river miles)	33	1982		R	See St. Joseph River Comments	
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St. Joseph River Comments: Flows through two major metropolitan areas in northern Indiana. Offers good boating and sportfishing. Historical significance relating to early French explorer, LaSalle. Indiana and Michigan are working on joint projects to run coldwater species to Mishawaka metro area.

Sugar River	Parke, Montgomery	From its confluence with Wabash River to State Rte. 32 at Crawfordsville	32	1982		S, R, G	See Sugar River Comments	
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Sugar River Comments: This popular canoe stream flows through Shades and Turkey Run State Parks on its way to Wabash River. Area is noted for stands of glacial relict hemlock forest and steeply dissected topography. Recommended by the state for designation in State Natural, Scenic and Recreational River System.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Tippecanoe River	Kosciusko, Marshall, Fulton, Pulaski, Starks, White	Lake Shafer (Norway) to Winamac (36rm) to channelization near Monoquet (118rm); Monoquet to source (Lake Tippecanoe) (7 river miles)	161	1982		R, F, W	See Tippecanoe River Comments	
Tippecanoe River	Tippecanoe, White, Carroll	From mouth at Wabash River to Oakdale dam	32	1982		R, F, W	See Tippecanoe River Comments	
<p><u>Tippecanoe River Comments:</u> A northern Indiana tributary of the Wabash River flowing through a heavily farmed portion of the state. Banks are generally wooded with some forested areas in corridor. Tippecanoe State Park is located on river. Upper half recommended by the state for inclusion in State Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System. Has great value as a fishing (particularly small mouth bass), floating and swimming stream.</p>								
Wabash River	Posey (White & Gallatin, IL)	From its confluence with Ohio River to I-64 bridge crossing in Posey County (includes part of river in 11a-d)	54	1982		R, F	See Wabash River Comments1	IL

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
<p>Wabash River Comments1: River forms boundary between Illinois and Indiana. It meanders sluggishly through a valley which averages six miles in width. Pastoral scenes interspersed with occasional timber stands are common along the river. Drains a large portion of the Indiana and the Illinois.</p>								
Wabash River	Gibson, Knox, Sullivan, Vigo, Vermillion, Fountain	From confluence with White River to Sullivan/Knox County line; Merom to the city of Terre Haute's southern limit; from the city of Terre Haute's northern limit to Covington (excluding approximately 10 mi within city)	103	1982			See Wabash River Comments2	IL
<p>Wabash River Comments2: The Wabash has the largest watershed in the state draining 73 of the 92 counties. It starts in the NE part of the state and empties into the Ohio River in the extreme SW on the Illinois border. One of the largest rivers in eastern U.S. Has very little overall cultural impact. Supports a rich diversity of fish species. Many parks and other shoreline activities. Flows through predominately agricultural areas of Indiana but has wooded sections in corridor and has been proposed for designation for a State Scenic River. Receives heavy fishing and floating use. Several rock outcroppings along river. Merom bluff rises 200' above water, providing picturesque views. Rich in history; it was the site of many military campaigns including the Battle of Tippecanoe.</p>								

White, East Fork	Davieess, Pike, Jackson, Bartholome w	From confluence with W. Fk. White River to just east of Hudsonville (11ad boundary) (15 river miles); New Elizabethstown to Columbus (40 river miles)	55	1982		S, R, G, F, H	See White, East Fork Comments	
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White, East Fork Comments: A fairly large river tributary of the White River flowing through very scenic south central portion of state in a 1-2 mile wide valley bordered by hills. Fairly well wooded banks and some heavily wooded areas along corridor. Recommended by the state for inclusion in State Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System. Good recreation potential. Rare blue ordovician limestone outcroppings. Segments pass through Hoosier National Forest near Beaver Bluff and McBrides Bluffs. An outstanding canoe route. Excellent fishing.

White, West Fork	Randolph, Delaware, Madison, Hamilton, Marion, Johnson, Morgan, Monroe, Owen, Green, Davieess	From confl. with E. Fk R (bdry of Davieess/Pike/Knox Co) to HW 50-150 near Washington(10 rm) to Edwardsport(24) to Spencer(82) to Martinsville(24) to Bluff Rge(9) to Hapgood/S Port Rd(24); N River Rd to Noblesville(15) to Riverwood PP(7) to E Anderson(21)	216	1982		F, W, H, O	See White, West Fork Comments	
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White, West Fork Comments: A large tributary of the Wabash River covering a large portion of south central Indiana. A broad river which flows through heavily farmed rolling to hilly watershed. Used extensively for fishing. Excellent fish production potential. Banks generally wooded with farming to waters edge in some places. Some forested area along the corridor. Recommended by the state for study in State Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System. Flows through Indianapolis SMSA. Several historic sites such as Old Town Hall, an early Indian settlement, Rees Cemetery and Mounds State Park. State planning 11,000-acre recreation area near Indianapolis.

Outstanding Resource Values (ORV) Definitions:

Scenery (S): The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors -- such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed -- may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

Recreation (R): Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing and boating.

- Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the region of comparison.
- The river may provide, or have the potential to provide, settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.
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Geology (G): The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

Cultural (C): The river or area within the river corridor contains archaeological sites or areas significant to traditional cultures. Examples might be American Indian burial grounds, petroglyphs, the oldest known human use site in a region, or streams that support traditional agriculture, subsistence fishing, or religious ceremonies.

Fish (F): Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.

- *Populations:* The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- *Habitat:* The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."

Wildlife (W): Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat or a combination of these conditions.

- *Populations:* The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique, and/or populations of federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- *Habitat:* The river, or area within the river corridor, provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."

Prehistory (P): The river, or area within the river corridor, contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; and/or may have been used by cultural groups for rare sacred purposes. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by the NPS.

History (H): The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A historic site(s) and/or features(s) is 50 years old or older in most cases.

Other Values (O): While no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for the "other similar values" category, assessments of additional river-related values consistent with the foregoing guidance may be developed -- including, but not limited to, hydrology, paleontology and botany resources.