# City of Bloomington Utilities and the Monroe County Community School Corporation: Innovative Collaboration for Mutual Benefit



2024 Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting Kriste Lindberg, Education Specialist



#### Why collaborate?

- Opens lines of communication
- Allows for more ideas to evolve
- Reduces duplication of effort
- Increases energy
- Provides more visibility
- Produces win/wins



Ultimately, it expands resources for all...



#### A little background...

Pre-COVID, we shared a great working relationship

- After school programs
- Stream Cleanups
- Hoosier Riverwatch
- Classroom presentations
- Media development "Raindrop" video
- Special Events
- Started "Flow" Rekindled!





## Examples...

Since then, larger picture endeavors...

- STE(A)M Traveling Bus
- Maker Challenge (Stormwater)
- "Flow"

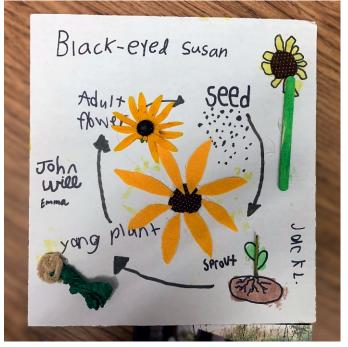




## STE(A)M Traveling Bus

- Focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math
- Delivers the message to the schools
- Timeline: We started with the school system early in the Fall 2023 semester and continue working with them when the lesson plans coincide with stormwater





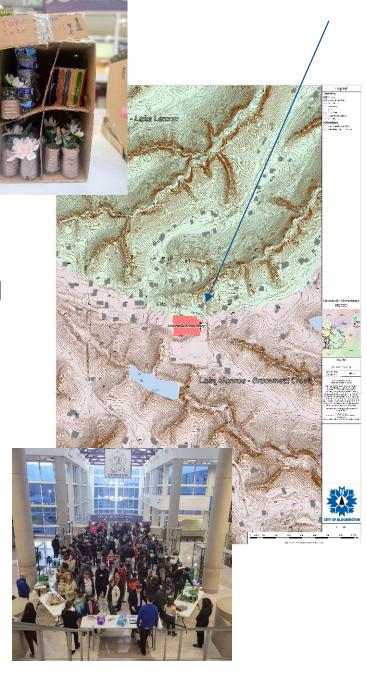


## **Maker Challenge**

 How you can improve stormwater quality and quantity on your schoolyard

 Combines mapping, field trips around school yards, research, critical thinking, prototype developing, outreach to public officials, and more

 Timeline: We did our first during the Fall 2023 semester and are looking forward to the Fall 2024 semester





#### "Flow"

- Big picture
- Combines all into a "flow"
- Timeline: We are gathering more information for meeting standards and plan to launch in the Fall as a precursor and follow-up to the Maker Challenge





#### In summary

- Innovative collaboration works because...
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  - Allows for more ideas to evolve
  - Reduces duplication of effort
  - Increases energy
  - Provides more visibility
  - Produces win/wins





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