As a new homebuyer you can make a positive impact on the new community you move into! You don’t have to do it all at once, but consider how small steps can make your family, your home, your yard, and your community healthier, more affordable, and beautiful.

**SAVE TIME**

**SAVE MONEY**

**BE HAPPIER & HEALTHIER**

**CONSERVE & IMPROVE WATER**

**Reconnecting to Our Waterways (ROW)** works with neighborhood, organization, and business partners across Indianapolis to help people understand the value of our waterways. No matter what neighborhood you are considering for homeownership, there is likely a waterway nearby you can enjoy through parks, greenways, trails, other destinations and activities. Every resident lives within a watershed (an area that drains to a river or stream). This means that when it rains, the actions you take in your home, yard, and community can help improve the local water quality that we, our families and the wildlife rely on. Did you know 60% of Indianapolis drinking water comes from our White River?

**What a homeowner should know**

Review our ALL THINGS WATER guide for fun and engaging ideas and tips that can help you reconnect with our waterways right from your own backyard.

**In Your Neighborhood**

**Lead or become a member of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful’s (KIB) Adopt-a-Block program** by committing to keep your street clean of litter. You can get free tools, trees and native plants. Learn more at: www.kibi.org/adopt-block 🌳

Pull up KIB’s Adopt-a-Block map to see who else in your neighborhood is working hard to keep their block clean. Together you can apply for a grant for a neighborhood beautification project: www.kibi.org/adopt-block 🌳

Volunteer with KIB to plant native trees in our community and preserve trees that help clean our waterways. 🌳

**Reduce trash in our waterways**

Avoid single-use bags and other plastics that often find their way to and pollute our waterways. 🌳

Pick up trash in your yard and community to keep it out of our waterways. 🌳

Participate in the Great Indy Clean up in Spring and Fall (kibi.org/great-indy-clean-up), and help with the annual White River Cleanup (second Saturday in April). 🌳

Always dispose of motor oil, chemicals, and paint through Indy’s Tox Drops to avoid contaminating the places kids play, wildlife lives, and where our drinking water comes from: www.indy.gov 🌳

**In and around our waterways**

**Grab a canoe/kayak, paddle, and life preserver and head to the nearest river access point** to be amazed at the plants and wildlife along our waterways (check out locations along the White River and Fall Creek). Learn more at Friends of the White River, www.friendsofwhiteriver.org 🌳

Join a ROW Waterway Committee near you to be a part of local projects and efforts along Central Canal, Fall Creek, Little Eagle Creek, Pleasant Run, Pogue’s Run, and White River. 🌳

Find the meetings at www.ourwaterways.org/events 🌳

**Attend events along our waterways**

At local parks, businesses, and museums:

- **Hear live jazz** in Watkins Park at Fall Creek 🌳
- **Shop the international grocer** along Little Eagle Creek 🌳
- **See the magic of the lantern lighting festival** in Spades Park along Pogue’s Run 🌳
- **Enjoy a yoga class** or **buy a plant** at the Garfield Park Conservatory along Pleasant Run 🌳
- **See a movie** along Central Canal 🌳
- **Attend events** along our waterways at local parks, businesses, and museums 🌳

**Take a run, bike, walk your dog, or just sit, relax, and read a book along a hidden gem by a waterway near you. 🌳**

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**IN YOUR HOME**

**WATER CONSERVATION**

- **DON'T POUR COOKING FATS, OILS AND GREASE** down the sink - dispose of them in the trash after they cool and solidify. Dry wipe greasy pots first before washing them.
- **ONLY FLUSH MATERIALS** that will break down in water and are INTENDED TO BE FLUSHED - no plastics or moist towlettes.
- **TURN WATER OFF** while brushing your teeth and washing hands.
- **FULL LOADS** of laundry and run dishwasher when fully loaded.
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**DOWN THE DRAIN:**

- Consider a yard that doesn't require watering. And, LIMIT ANY NECESSARY WATERING to 2 – 3 times per week, water early or late in the day, and avoid using water during times of drought.
- **LEAKS:** WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

  - Know where your water main shut-off is located in case of a leak. If you see water flooding an area in the yard or home, call Citizens Energy Group’s (Citizens) emergency line at 317-924-6311 and know that the repair of the line is still the responsibility of the customer.
  - Leaks in piping between basements, burst lines, outdoor sprinkler heads, or sump pumps are considered visible leaks and are not eligible for an adjustment.
  - A water leak, such as running toilets, crawl space leaks, malfunctioning water softeners, or water heaters that do not shut off, are considered hidden leaks, and are not visible, and may qualify for an adjustment.
  - Irrigation leaks can result in high water consumption and can be costly. These leaks are not eligible for adjustments and are important to repair. Leaks in the meter pit, at fittings, or couplings are the responsibility of the homeowner to repair. If the lead is prior to the meter, once detected by Citizens, the homeowner is notified and given 30 days to make the repair to prevent disconnection.
  - Leaks can be costly to a homeowner and should be repaired as quickly as possible. Some leaks are eligible for bill adjustments, while others are not.

**WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

- There are minimum monthly fees for water/ sewer service in addition to volume charges.
- Homeowners are responsible for care and maintenance of water and sewer lines in their homes and in their yards, up to the main.
- The meter pit and pit lid are the responsibility of the customer and should be accessible (clear of debris) at all times.
- There may be a deposit required to establish service unless creditworthiness can be established.
- Some homes are on a septic system. Should the septic fail, a homeowner may be required to connect to a sanitary sewer by the Marion County Health Department. Costs for sewer installation is the sole responsibility of the homeowner. Certain neighborhoods are targeted for the Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) through 2025 and are eligible for Citizens Energy Group’s STEP programs and pricing. Notifications are sent to eligible residents. All others are not eligible for the program or pricing.
- Visit CitizensEnergyGroup.com for more information.

**LEAKS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

- **FIND THE PROBLEM:**
  - Leaks in piping between basements, burst lines, outdoor sprinkler heads, or sump pumps are considered visible leaks and are not eligible for an adjustment.
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**REPAIR THE LEAK:**

- **USE LEAK DETECTORS** to find the location of the leak.
- **TURN WATER OFF** at the main shut-off.
- **CALL CITIZENS ENERGY GROUP’S EMERGENCY LINE** at 317-924-6311.
- **LEAKS:** WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

**TRY THIS:** To test your toilets you can do a simple dye test by putting food coloring in your tank and leaving it for 15 minutes. If the colored water has leaked into your toilet bowl, you have a toilet leak and may need to replace your flapper or toilet if it cannot be repaired.

**IN YOUR YARD**

- **REMOVAL OF INVASIVE PLANTS** and replace them with native plants and trees to promote healthy laws and landscapes that attract good insects like pollinators and improve water quality. Learn more at: www.ourwaterways.org/invasives
- **PLANT A VEGETABLE OR FLORAL GARDEN** or join a community garden to grow healthy, affordable, fresh food to enjoy or share.
- **COLLECT RAINWATER** in rain barrels to water your gardens and reduce runoff.
- **AVOID USING FERTILIZERS** and lawn chemicals that could wash off and harm aquatic life.
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**NEED UTILITY ASSISTANCE?**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

- Citizens offers a limited Line Repair Program. The program is income-based and will repair gas, water, and/ or sewer lines in need of repair due to leaks. Contact 211 for a referral.
- Citizens offers flexible payment. You can request flexible payment arrangements online. (Registered Accounts)
- Citizens’ Warm Hearts Warm Home utility bill assistance is available to qualified customers. Customers can inquire online. (Registered Accounts)
- Contact Connect2Help 211 for referrals to other basic needs.

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