

RITA In Action

RITA at the State Fair!

By: Emma Bodnarick

RITA Mentor Technician 8

Heard about water quality practices but want to see them in action? The Pathway to Water Quality at the Indiana State Fairgrounds is the perfect place to learn about ways people can improve water quality on their property.

Since 1993, the Pathway to Water Quality has been a staple at the State Fair. Many visitors mentioned that they make sure to visit the path every year. It makes sense- the pathway is the best place to find relief from the brutal heat of August. Large, mature trees provide shade along the path and, the best part, a working well that lets visitors get free water!



The Pathway does much more than just provide relief from the heat, however. It was created by the members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) to serve as a model watershed. Everyone lives in a watershed, but many of the visitors mentioned that they have never heard the term. This is why, every year, members of the (ICP) volunteer at the Pathway. This year, Resilient Indiana technicians from across the state helped run The Pathway. Volunteers welcome visitors, answer questions, and put on educational demonstrations.

During the duration of the State Fair, thousands of visitors passed through The Pathway to Water Quality. As they follow the path, visitors will see a variety of practices used to improve soil and water quality. Examples of these practices range from rain barrels to cover crops.

Pathway volunteers drive home the connection between soil health and water quality. Visitors leave with a deeper understanding of our effects on watersheds and ideas of practices they can implement on their own land!

Next year, make sure to stop by the Pathway to Water Quality. You will be sure to see a RITA technician enjoying the best spot at the fair!