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Contact: Rob Sparks  
765-642-1860  
robsparks@cedanderson.com

## **Mounds Lake – It’s About The Water**

*Imagine Mounds Lake public visioning sessions to highlight future water needs.*

ANDERSON, Ind. – Is there an upcoming water crisis in central Indiana? Considering the increased population of central Indiana, the expanding trend of water scarcity in the west and Midwest, and a lack of dry-weather preparedness throughout the region, the answer is yes.

The current water crises in the Western states and in some areas of the Midwest are indicators of what the future may hold for central Indiana.

“Previous droughts have helped us to recognize the water needs of our area,” said Rob Sparks, Executive Director for the Corporation for Economic Development Anderson/Madison County (CED), “If central Indiana experiences a two-year drought, which has happened in living memory, water conservation and rationing may fail to meet the regional water needs.”

Most of the residents and businesses in central Indiana depend heavily on three reservoirs for their water, including Geist, Morse, and Eagle Creek. These reservoirs were designed and built between 1940 and 1970, when the population of central Indiana, according to the Department for Metropolitan Development, was around 700,000. Today, that population has more than doubled to approximately 1.8 million residents.

According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Water Data, about 70% of water withdrawals in 2012 for Central Indiana came from surface water from these reservoirs, as well as the rivers and streams that supply them. About 30% of the region’s water withdrawals came from groundwater aquifers. According to the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant - a program funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the University of Illinois and Purdue University - these aquifers “exhibit declining water levels, chemical contamination, saltwater intrusion and inadequately replenished groundwater. Many aquifers will experience severe supply problems in the next 20 years.”

In short, the surface water supply is diminishing and the underground aquifers are contaminated or are unable to be replenished fast enough.

With the increased demand for fresh water in the region, a drought would see central Indiana without water.

A 2004 central Indiana Malcolm Pirnie water report states that central Indiana’s surface water supplies are nearly fully developed and that net surface water use will likely exceed minimum stream flow

requirements before 2020. Central Indiana elected officials, along with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, have made planning for water resources a top priority.

The Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce 2010 Water Study states, “If no change occurs, the region will be unprepared for future growth and unable to serve increasing demands in an affordable and reliable manner...consequently, managing central Indiana’s surface water and groundwater supplies now is imperative for the region’s continued economic vitality.”

At the “*Imagine Mounds Lake*” interactive visioning sessions area residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the project, learn more about the Phase II Feasibility Study findings, and hear more about the future water needs in central Indiana. Sessions will be held August 19 through August 23 in Chesterfield, Daleville, Yorktown and Anderson, with the main exhibit located in Anderson’s Mounds Mall. The session schedule includes:

Anderson	August 19-22	Mounds Mall	10 am-9 pm
Anderson	August 23	Mounds Mall	11 am-7 pm
Chesterfield	August 19	Mill Creek Civic Center	2 pm-8 pm
Daleville	August 20	Daleville City Offices	11 am-5 pm
Yorktown	August 21	Yorktown Town Court	11 am-5 pm

The Corporation for Economic Development (CED) of Anderson/Madison County is a 501c3 non-profit that was incorporated in 1983. Their mission is to plan and undertake activities leading to steady job growth, increasing economic diversity, and a strengthened employer base, which enhances the quality of life in Madison County, Indiana.

For more information about the proposed Mounds Lake, visit [www.moundslake.com](http://www.moundslake.com), or contact Rob Sparks at 765-642-1860 or at [robsparks@cedanderson.com](mailto:robsparks@cedanderson.com).

For quick updates on Mounds Lake, follow the project on Twitter @MoundsLake.